

37. The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of providing at least one reagent in the detection element and conducting an analyte-specific detection reaction with the at least one reagent.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the observing step includes visual observation.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein the observing step includes optical observation.


40. The method of claim 37, wherein the observing step includes the step of conducting a reflection photometric measurement.

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#### REMARKS

The present application is a 371 (national phase) patent application of International Patent Application No. PCT/EP98/07886, International Filing Date December 4, 1998. Claims 1, 4, 6, 11, 12, and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed therein. Claim 2 has been amended so that it depends from a pending claim, claims 3, 5, 9, and 10 have been amended to remove the italicized and bold font from the word "wherein", and claims 7, 8, and 13 have been amended to remove their multiple dependencies. Claims 15-40 have been added. The claim amendments and new claims find full support throughout the specification and drawings. No new matter is added by virtue of the new claims or by the amendments to the claims.

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